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3 DEC 1958

Dispatch to All Chiefs of Stations and Bases

SUBJECT: Congressional and Other Official Visitors

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58-4780

1. Congressional and other American officials planning to visit abroad in connection with their duties often ask KUBARK to arrange general area background and current information briefings by our field representatives. In some cases KUBARK is itself anxious to have certain of these officials briefed by Station Chiefs on our activities since as members of congressional committees or staffs, or of other Government bureaus, they have a legitimate interest in our work.

2. Particularly in the case of Congressmen who are members of the established subcommittees for KUBARK (including certain staff members), the Agency is now taking a positive approach to make them more knowledgeable of our activities. In the past, the Agency has not generally taken the initiative but now we wish to do more in these cases than simply responding to questions. We hope to furnish these individuals with sufficient information so that they can form an impression of our problems and requirements in terms of funds and personnel. Thus, they will be enabled to cope with the various aspects of KUBARK on a more knowledgeable basis as these matters arise in the usual course of business in the Congress.

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3. The parent committees of the Agency are the Armed Services Committees of the two Houses. The other two committees intimately involved are the two Appropriations Committees. In each of these four committees there has been established a small subcommittee to deal with KUBARK activities. The subcommittees have received the most sensitive information about the Agency and have been repeatedly advised that we will furnish them any information on which they may wish to query us. Adequately informing these subcommittees can be a bulwark against the charge that no one in Congress knows what the Agency is doing. For information we have attached the membership of the subcommittees and the key staff members who participate in Agency briefings.

4. Since such officials usually go abroad through the auspices and facilities of other departments, they are generally provided with escorts and other assistants who make every effort to protect them from too crowded a schedule. A special effort on the part of our field chiefs is required to make sure that they establish direct contact with the official in question and make themselves known and available to him for the briefing he has requested.

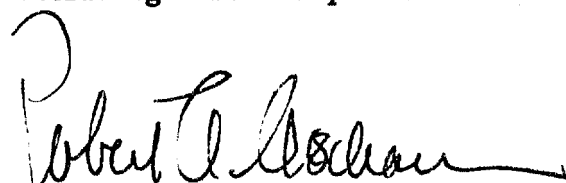
5. Needless to say, we wish to avoid any impression that we are not being fully cooperative by actively taking the initiative, directly with the officials concerned, to make our availability known to them

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in the most positive sense. Serious misunderstandings which can arise from any omission on our part in this respect can have highly undesirable consequences in our vital relations with the Congress and with other Government agencies.

6. None of the foregoing is to be construed that Stations or Bases will undertake to contact and brief on their own initiative congressional representatives traveling in their respective areas. We shall notify you of each particular case, furnishing such additional guidance as may be deemed necessary, and ask that you give special attention to Headquarters' requests for such briefings of American officials. If it should happen that a Congressman appears without advance notice from Headquarters and requests a briefing, Stations should extend every courtesy attempting to secure Headquarters' guidance if time permits. Otherwise, a generalized area briefing should be conducted except that in the case of members of any of the KUBARK subcommittees, the briefings should include information on Agency activities including frank responses to questions.

Attachment


ROBERT A. ASCHAM